



Absolutism in Russia



Peter the Great

- Entrance task: Think – what traits did both Peter the Great and Louis XIV share?
- Today's topic: Peter the Great and absolutism in Russia
- Homework – Pictograph on Frederick the Great (p. 77)

Info from readings

- What did Peter do for Russia?
- How did he rule?
- Major accomplishments?
- Methods of modernization
- Failures?



Events of his reign & examples of absolute rule



Condition of Russia when he became ruler

- Russia was a land of serfs
- Isolated from western Europe by Mongol rule, geography, and religion
- A backward country with no Renaissance
- Technologically behind the west

- Forced nobles to shave beards and give up backward customs
- Used forced labor to build St. Petersburg
- Put the church under his control
- Built a strong navy



Peter the Great
1672-1725
r. 1696-1725

Reforms

- Modernized Russia
- Introduced western technology and customs
- Hired engineers, ship builders, teachers to westernize Russia
- Simplified Russian alphabet
- Acquired a “window to the west” on the Baltic and a warm water port at St. Petersburg
- Introduced the potato to Russia
- Raised the status of women



Russia under Peter the Great







Baroque architecture & absolutism

Royal palaces

- Catholic influence (Counter-Reformation)
 - Intended as a visible statement of the wealth and power of the Church
- Intended to awe the people
- Baroque – dramatic, emotional style
- Decoration became more important and elaborate, and spaces became more complex, their impact highlighted by the dramatic use of light and shade

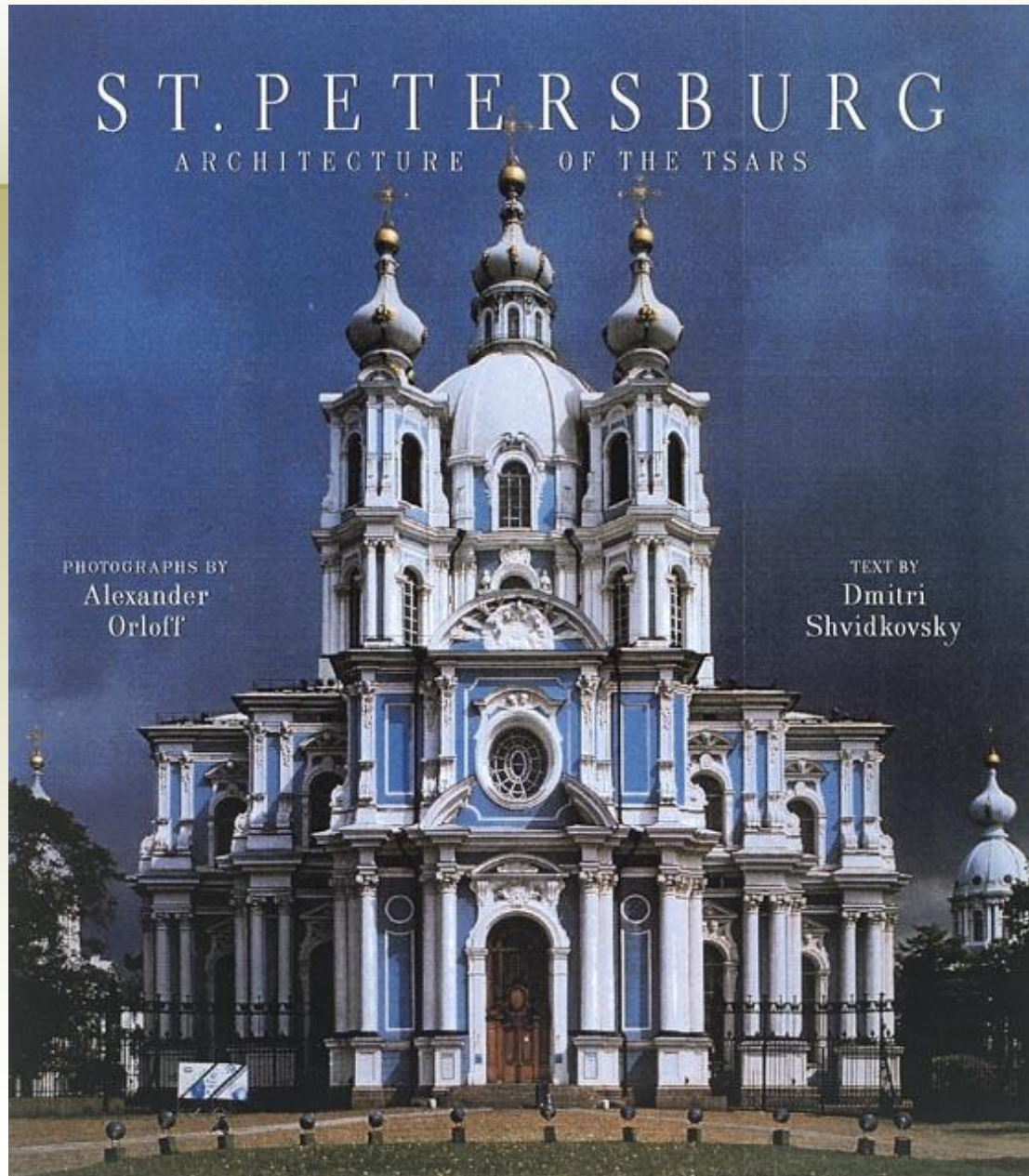
Versailles – Hall of Mirrors







St. Petersburg,
one of the largest and
most influential cities
in 18th century Europe



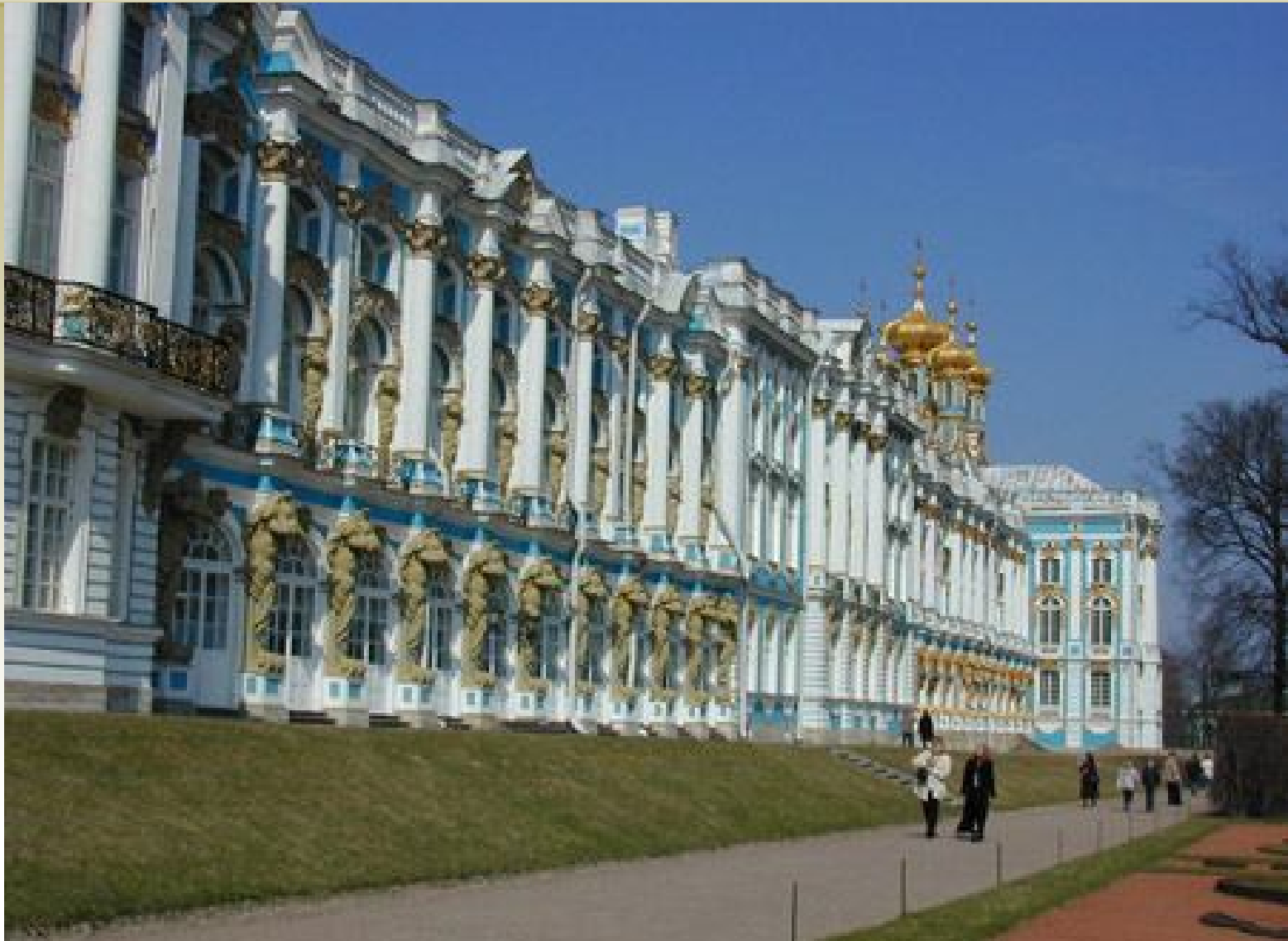


The Winter Palace at St. Petersburg





Catherine The Great's Palace in Pushkin (1756)







Homework

Peter the Great clip